

VITAL STATISTICS GLOSSARY

Birth Weight - The weight of a neonate determined immediately after delivery or as soon thereafter as feasible. It should be expressed to the nearest gram. This weight should be measured preferably within the first hour of life before significant postnatal weight loss has occurred.

Cause of Death – Deaths, by cause, are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, of the World Health Organization.

Childbearing Age – Women 15 through 44 years of age.

Stillbirth (Fetal Death) – Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of human conception, fetus and placenta, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that, after such expulsion or extraction, the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of the voluntary muscles. This definition excludes induced terminations of pregnancy.

Gestation Age – The number of completed weeks that have elapsed between the first day of the last normal menstrual period (not the presumed time of conception) and the date of delivery, irrespective of whether the gestation results in a live birth or a fetal death.

Infant Death – Any death at any time from birth up to, but not including, one year of age (364 days, 23 hours, and 59 minutes from the moment of birth).

Live Birth – The complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Heartbeats are to be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions; respirations are to be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

Low Weight Birth – Any neonate, regardless of gestation age, whose weight at birth is less than 2,500 grams.

Maternal Death – The death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days after termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.

Multiple Causes of Death – All those diseases, morbid conditions or injuries which either resulted in or contributed to death and the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced any such injuries.

Neonate – A live born infant.

Neonatal Death – Death of a liveborn neonate before the neonate becomes 28 days old (up to and including 27 days, 23 hours, and 59 minutes from the moment of birth).

Parity – The number of children borne.

Perinatal Deaths – All fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks' gestation, plus deaths under 1 week.

Place of Occurrence – The place where the event occurred (regardless of place of residence).

Postneonatal Death – A death of an infant 28 days or more but under one year of age.

Race – The terms “white,” “black” and “other” are used to denote the racial groups. Definitions used for classifying race are those specified by the Bureau of the Census.

Residence Data – Data compiled according to the usual place of residence of the person to whom the event occurred without regard to the geographic place of occurrence. For births, infant deaths, and fetal deaths, the residence is defined as the mother's usual place of residence. (Resident data for Kentucky include events which occurred to residents of the Commonwealth irrespective of where the event took place.)

Total Births – The total number of deliveries, live births plus fetal deaths.

Underlying Cause of Death – The underlying cause of death is either the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading directly to death or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.